



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National
Historical Park

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Meadow Mowing at Valley Forge

VALLEY FORGE, PA – Valley Forge contains one of the largest areas of natural meadow in southeastern Pennsylvania – over 1,000 acres. Meadows provide critical habitat for wildlife such as grassland birds and butterflies as well as serving to conserve soils, reduce water run-off, and filter pollutants. Additionally, the gorgeous textures and colors of the grasses, waving in the wind and changing through the seasons, have brought extra beauty to this serene park.

Visitors accustomed to seeing the tall grasses have been surprised to see that the meadows are being mown this month. The park mows meadow lands by to prevent their gradual conversion to brush and forest. We mow during the winter to avoid injury to grassland birds who will nest here in the spring, and to avoid eliminating cover and food during the breeding season.

This winter shearing reveals the “bones” of the landscape, covered now in a warm-brown stubble. When the weather warms, visitors will see hundreds of acres burst into lush green grasses, and watch the gradual growth and transformation of the meadow grasses through the seasons..

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